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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY

Eastern Germany

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TOPIC

Information from various Volkspolizei Posts

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EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. On 18 June 1952, the Volkspolizei Kaserne in Brandenburg-Hohenstedken was more heavily occupied than previously. An estimated 2,000 police were quartered there. Twelve new garages were under construction in addition to the 35 garages which had already been completed. The finished garages were vacant except for a few trucks. The Volkspolizei personnel received training with the Soviets at an intensified rate. Practices with T 34/85 tanks and close combat practices against tanks were observed. Beginning about three weeks before, the Volkspolizei personnel and Soviet soldiers also trained on 122-mm howitzers which came from the General-Feldzeugmeister Kaserne. A total of eight howitzers was seen on 17 June 1952. (1)
2. On 11 June 1952, [] an additional tent camp for Volkspolizei personnel had been erected near the Volkspolizei Kaserne in Eggesin. (2)
3. On 23 June 1952, 150 newly inducted Volkspolizei recruits were quartered in the former Wallmeyer Camp on Elchrotherweg in Eisenach. The camp had served as refugee camp. The recruits started training during the following days. (2)
4. Between 12 and 17 May 1952, prefabricated barracks sections for the construction of four complete buildings for each company were brought to the VF Camp Fuenfelchen near Brandenburg. (3)
5. On 3 June 1952, [] the Volkspolizei personnel stationed in the Volkspolizei quarters in Fuenfelchen and Soviet soldiers performed joint cross country driving practices with JS - 3 tanks [] 3 Soviet soldiers attempted to cross a small lake in a tank, with all hatches closed completely. [] the tank stuck in the mud and had to be recovered by another tank. (3)

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6. On 20 June 1952, an estimated 1,000 police, organized into five companies, were quartered in the Volkspolizei Camp in Fuenfeichen. The units occupied between 10 and 12 wooden buildings and about 15 tents. (3)

7. [redacted] during the night on 23 May 1952, guns of various types were unloaded in Grossenhain and were subsequently hauled to the yard of the Volkspolizei Kaserne. [redacted] A wooden fence, 3 meters high, was constructed around the barracks installation. A tent, 10 x 8 x 4 meters, erected in the area adjoining the installation on the east, housed Volkspolizei personnel. New buildings were allegedly to be constructed for the installation in that area. (4)

8. The Moeckern Kaserne on Georg-Schumann Strasse in Leipzig quartered an estimated 1,500 Volkspolizei personnel in mid-June 1952. A total of 22 trucks arranged for inspection were seen at the parking lot. [redacted]

The Volkspolizei hospital in the eastern section of the Planitz Kaserne was allegedly occupied by about 180 patients during the period of observation. (5)

9. On 25 May 1952, the Volkspolizei unit stationed at the airfield in Prenzlau was transferred to the zonal border except for a small number of cadre personnel. [redacted] The remaining unit which was brought up to strength with recruits by 13 June, was allegedly also to be transferred soon. (6)

10. In mid-June 1952, the Volkspolizei unit stationed at the Prenzlau airfield had left. Elements of the unit had allegedly moved to the area of Zittau. The unit had received Soviet tanks shortly before departing. The Fliegerhorst Kaserne was again taken over by the Soviet Air Force. (6)

11. In mid-June 1952, [redacted] the Volkspolizei Kaserne in Weissenfels housed 2 x 88-mm AA guns, 6 rocket launchers, 6 heavy mortars and 11 x 45-mm AT guns. (7)

12. On 8 June 1952, [redacted] VP with about 15 tanks were engaged in a practice in the Zeitz forest. (8)

Comments.

- (1) Elements of the VPD in Hohenstuecken, namely an Infantry Kommando and the Engineer Special Abteilung, are stationed in Kirchmoeser. The total strength of the VPD is therefore believed to approximate 2,400 police as compared with 1,800 police in March 1952. As no 122-mm guns have apparently been issued to the Volkspolizei, it appears plausible that these guns were placed at the disposal of the Volkspolizei for training by the Russians.
- (2) No unit of the military Volkspolizei has hitherto been stationed in Eisenach. The personnel referred to as recruits in the present report possibly belongs to the alert police in Land Thuringia. They may receive basic training upon induction. It appears scarcely plausible that recruits of military units should be quartered and receive training separately from their troop units. The tent camp close to the Volkspolizei Kaserne in Eggenstein probably is for temporary quarters and was built to house the increased personnel.

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(3) The Volkspolizei engineer battalion in Fuenfeichen which consisted of about 250 police was transferred to the area of Gransee on 14 May 1952.

The reported occupation of the installation in Fuenfeichen, the construction of additional quarters and the training with tanks of Volkspolizei personnel which was apparently conducted under the supervision of Soviet personnel, indicates a complete change of the previous occupation. Further information is needed to determine what type of Volkspolizei unit is stationed in Fuenfeichen and from where this unit came.

(4) No guns arrived by rail in Grossenhain on 23 and 24 May. Only a shipment on 10 May [redacted]

There is no reason for believing that the unloading of this shipment should have lasted until 23 May. Therefore it is believed [redacted]

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[redacted] an unloading in Grossenhain on 23 and 24 May of an undetermined shipment.

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(5) [redacted] mid-June 1952, the strength of the unit at that time was about 3,500 police. The actual strength is believed to approximate 2,500 police. [redacted]

(6) It is doubted that elements of the VPD in Prenzlau should have moved to the zonal border. It appears more likely that elements may have moved to a summer camp, possibly in the area of Zittau. The information on the arrival of recruits is correct. The evacuation of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne was previously reported.

Information on the arrival of tanks for the VPD in Prenzlau [redacted] in paragraph 9 was contained in a previous report.

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(7) The weapons observed arrived in May 1952.

It is doubted, however, that Volkspolizei units should be equipped with rocket launchers.

(8) It is believed that Volkspolizei summer camp is located in the Zeitz forest.

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